



Vol. 2, No. 3
Oct. 6, 2002

SECURING THE SECURITY

Engineers build guards a safer, more effective place to work

Sgt. Amy Abbott
V Corps Public Affairs Office

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland — V Corps' tireless engineers have struck again, this time leaving their mark on the grateful guards at Camp Dodge.

A "dream team" of engineers from V Corps' 94th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, effectively planned, built and stationed five fully functional guard towers on the site in three days, according to Sgt. George Brooks, the senior soldier on the project. The soldiers come from the 94th's A Company, Brooks said, but they are currently attached to the brigade's 535th Engineer Company.



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott
Pfc. Brian Werth, a carpentry/masonry specialist with A Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, puts together a wall on one of the five guards towers his team is building at Camp Dodge.

The towers give the guards a better place to carry out their mission and provide shelter from bad weather, but the towers are also able to better "protect the protectors" of Victory Strike III by stopping small arms fire.

"We were tasked to build five guard towers. Three will be placed on top of milvans and two will go at the gates," Brooks explained. "The three (on the milvans) will be filled with at least 23 inches of sand, enabling them to stop small arms fire."

The team was made up of carpentry and masonry specialists who had been previously working on a humanitarian mission in the city of Drawsko Pomorskie. After receiving the tower mission, the team immediately grabbed their Kevlar helmets, threw on their safety goggles and began building.

"...we leave something behind — a standing structure that other people can use."

Spc. Thomas Johns

"First you have to plan everything," explained Spc. Thomas Johns, one of the soldiers on the guard tower team. "You start out doing the floor systems, then put in the trucks and lay your sheeting. Next you build your walls, stand them up and nail them in. After everything is nailed in you put your girders and trusses on and you sheath it. After that you put your wailers (double two-by-four's) all the way around and tie them into your walls with tie wire. That is one complete guard tower."

The process was long, detailed and full of hard physical labor, but thanks to the superior soldiers Brooks said he had under him, it was finished in almost half the time an "average" platoon would have taken.

"It was a five-day mission, but we completed it in three days because I took the top-quality soldiers from each squad to assist me in making



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott
Pfcs. Lucky Porotesano (left) and Brian Werth, both carpentry/masonry specialists with A Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, nail in the walls of a guard tower they are working on at Camp Dodge.

the 'dream team,'" Brooks said.

His team consisted of Johns, Pfcs. Lucky Porotesano, Brian Werth, Johnathan Davis and Delroy Boese, all of A Company. All agreed that the job was rewarding despite the tremendous workload, and said they wouldn't do any other job in the Army.

"I just love building stuff," said Johns. "We are one of the few MOS's (Military Occupational Specialties) that when we leave, we leave something behind — a standing structure that other people can use."

The members of Brooks' dream team are no strangers to hard but satisfying jobs. In fact the crew is also part of a team currently working on a renovation project at the Drawsko Pomorskie hospital. So no one seemed surprised that they tackled the guard tower task with such skill and energy.

"I have come to really appreciate this platoon. Not only because they are in the nation's spotlight through the Humanitarian Civic Assistance mission at the hospital, but because they're also showing their commitment to support V Corps and its security requirements," said Capt. Alex Deraney, 535th Eng. Co. commander. "I think they've done a tremendous job, and this is all a tremendous learning experience for us in what it takes to support the corps."

A QUICK GLIMPSE OF THE POLISH SOLDIER

Pfc. Kristopher Joseph
V Corps Public Affairs Office

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland— Poland has been gracious in offering V Corps its training areas to conduct Victory Strike III, but training in Poland also gives United States soldiers the opportunity to be exposed to an army little-known by most Americans.

The Polish army is much like the U.S. Army, but there are some interesting differences.

The Polish army takes volunteers, but builds the majority of its force with draftees.

"Once drafted, they must serve for one year, in which they are called 'compulsory' soldiers," said Capt. Piotr Dziurdzia, a Polish army communications officer working with V Corps during Victory Strike.

Strict discipline is the norm in training Polish soldiers, and U.S. soldiers have observed their respectfulness. "Every time I walk by them, they lock-up to attention," said Capt. Heidi Stephens, Mayor of Oleszno for Victory Strike. "They're always courteous, and sometimes they even kiss my hand when I help them with something."

After a year, the Polish soldier can leave the army or he can become what is called a "professional" soldier, Dziurdzia said. Like American troops, to become a professional soldier the Polish man must sign a contract that contains his length of service, job title, salary, and benefits.

Becoming a Polish officer is a little more difficult than in the U.S.. A member of the Polish military must have the four to five years of higher education before he or she can be commissioned. The degree must be earned at a military academy, unlike in the U.S. military, where an officer's

degree can come from virtually any accredited four-year university. Any Polish officers can easily be identified by the stars on their shoulders.

Like its American counterpart, the Polish Army has a variety of colored berets that signify particular specialties. The green beret is for land-force soldiers, and a dark maroon beret is for special forces. Military policemen wear red berets, and a black beret signifies a tanker.

Some of the Polish Army's benefits include 35 days of paid vacation, a 50 percent salary pension after 20 years of service, and a 75 percent pension after 26 years' service. Unemployed spouses of soldiers who have children get a salary of 500 zloty (about \$125).

"I am a happy man," said Dziurdzia. "The army is a good job for our people."

The Polish army has a history that spans many centuries, but the country's location has hurt its political and economic stability over the years. Since Poland moved out from under the domination of communism and the Warsaw Pact in the early 1990s, the government has been trying to rebuild a healthy military.

As Poland solidifies its relatively new status in NATO, the relationship between the U.S. and Polish armies is one that will benefit both sides in strengthening mission capabilities and improving lines of communication. The Victory Strike exercises are helping to accomplish both of these.

"It is important for us to have good relations with the U.S., and being here is a good experience for both of us," said Dziurdzia.

Editor's note: Pfc. Kristopher Joseph is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade.



Photo by Pfc. Kristopher Joseph
A squad of Polish soldiers practicing some drill and ceremony at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area.



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VANGUARD is an authorized publication for participants in exercise Victory Strike III. VANGUARD is published daily under the supervision of the V Corps Public Affairs Office to provide exercise participants with news and information on the people, events, policies and operations of, and associated with, Victory Strike III and the exercise's host nation, as well as current world affairs. The contents of VANGUARD are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the V Corps Public Affairs Officer.

IN-PROCESSING TROOPS & EQUIPMENT

A logistician's job is never done...

Spc. Christopher Fincham
V Corps Public Affairs Office

KONOTOP, Poland - More than 3,500 soldiers, civilians and contractors converged to Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland for Victory Strike III. The 18th Corps Support Battalion's 11th Transportation Co. (HET) along with soldiers from 55th Personnel Support Battalion, were here to receive them, stage, and ensure successful movement onto their training destination.

The 18th CSB had the responsibility of the reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of all personnel participating in the exercise, according to Staff Sgt. Emilio Calzada, the unit's movements supervisor. They reported to Konotop either by bus, convoy or other means and 18th processed them into the training exercise, housed them if needed, staged vehicles to be checked out and then sent them on to their training area.

When the buses or convoys came in, they were received by a personnel assistance services team from 1st PERSCOM's 55th PSB, who had the task of in-processing the numerous bodies arriving to VS III. "It's just having to in process a lot of soldiers. This is more time critical though - it's got to get done as fast as possible," said Spc. Laron Berry, of 55th PSB. "A bus would pull in and we would go onto it and get everyone's I.D. and then bring them into our office to scan them and ran through the computer. Then depending on where their unit was going to be set up we made sure that they

got to the right buses for their destination."

With the large number of participants, the process got very hectic at times. "Buses just kept rolling in. I couldn't get done with one before another one would roll in full of more soldiers," said Berry. "It seemed like every time we got a chance to breathe for a minute another bus full or convoy would pull in here. I know there at least had to be 100 buses that came through here."

Upon arrival, many units still had to wait on their equipment to arrive. This posed the next challenge for the 18th CSB who not only ran the rail heads at Jankowo and Prystinia, but also had to provide shelter for the troops as they waited for their trains to arrive.

"We received them, made sure that they got linked up with their personnel assistance services team, processed them through, housed them if we needed to, got them out to their equipment and headed to their destination," said Capt. Gary Cregan, HHD commander and battle captain. "If their equipment wasn't here yet we made sure they had somewhere to stay and then bused them out to they rail head."

Soldiers from 11th Trans. Co. ran the railroad operations, after their RSOI cadre ensured the units safely and successfully had all vehicles and equipment off the trains, the mission was still not complete. The vehicles had to then be staged in a marshalling area so they could all be checked out and processed for the exercise.

"We had a marshalling area set up so they could stage their vehicles until they get fully in



Photo by Spc. Christopher Fincham
A member of 11th Trans. Co.'s RSOI cadre checks out a vehicle before it leaves the rail car it arrived on, at the Prystinia (Poland) railroad for exercise Victory Strike III.

processed," said Calzada. "We also had a maintenance team set up from 11th Trans. Co., to fix and handle any frustrated cargo and get it moved out.

The mission was essential; the logistics complicating; the manpower stretched, and 18th proved it was up to the task and successfully received nearly 150 buses, processed more than 3,500 soldiers, and downloaded more than 30 trains of equipment.

"Every body and every piece of equipment in DPTA came through us, whether it was one a bus, at the rail-head, or a convoy, our soldiers processed them in," Cregan said

However, their mission is still only half-complete, says Berry. "We can't leave until the last person and last piece of equipment is out processed and on it's way back to Germany."

Editor's note: Spc. Christopher Fincham is assigned to 3rd Corps Support Command, Public Affairs Office.

Safety Is Important to Soldiers

A word to Leaders: YOU are the one who knows where the accidents are going to happen. You know how familiar soldiers are with their equipment. You know how familiar they are with each other. You know when they're getting tired or frustrated. You also know the other sections or units and how they work.

Here are some suggestions for taking the lead in safety:

■ **Don't make light of safety requirements.** We've all seen leaders who abide by safety requirements only when someone important is watching. As soon as that person leaves, soldiers get a wink and off they go—without safety glasses, hearing protection, or safety belts. Your soldiers believe what YOU tell them. Are your words—or your actions—telling your soldiers that safety isn't important?

■ **Take time to do things safely—that means by the book.** When it's time to occupy or leave the field, everybody's in a big rush. We all know how that goes. Slow your folks down. Don't be in such a hurry that somebody gets hurt or something gets damaged. Taking shortcuts in order to finish your mission 30 minutes earlier isn't worth the cost of a wrecked vehicle or injured soldier. Information provided by Mr. Alfredo Noguerras, V Corps Safety Office.



Sports

2002 MLB Playoffs--The Anaheim Angels are now in position of winning their first postseason series ever after overcoming a five-run deficit and ousting the Yankees 9-6 on Friday night giving them a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five AL Division Series. Saturday's game 4 will feature Anaheim's ace Jarrod Washburn against David Wells.

A Metrodome playoff-record crowd could not silence the A's bats as they defeated Minnesota 6-3 Friday for a 2-1 lead in their AL Division Series. Saturday's Game 4 has Tim Hudson against the Twins Eric Milton.

As the NL series tied 1-1 moves to San Francisco, Pac Bell Park will host a marquee match up Saturday between the Braves Game 3 starter Greg Maddux and Barry Bonds. Livan Hernandez will pitch for the Giants.

Defending champs Arizona are on the brink of elimination going into Game 3 of their NL series against the surging Cardinals who will send Andy Benes against the D'Backs Miguel Batista Saturday night in St. Louis. The Cards only drawback is that they will be without third baseman Scott Rolen, who sprained his shoulder after a collision with Arizona pinch-runner Alex Cintron in Game 2.

NFL--Four teams will have quarterback changes in their upcoming games. Chad Pennington starts for the Jets against Kansas City. Steelers Tommy Maddox faces Jon Kitna who will take the snap for the Bengals. Redskins Danny Wuerffel will be behind center against New Orleans.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (AP) TOP 10

- #1 Miami (4-0) vs. Connecticut (2-3)
- #2 Texas (4-0) vs. Oklahoma State (2-2)
- #3 Oklahoma (4-0) at Missouri (3-1)
- #4 Virginia Tech (5-0) at Boston College (3-1)
- #5 Ohio State (5-0) at Northwestern (2-3)
- #6 Florida (4-1) at Mississippi (3-1)
- #7 Georgia (4-0) at Alabama (4-1)
- #8 Oregon (4-0) at Arizona (3-1)
- #9 Notre Dame (4-0) vs. Stanford (1-2)
- #10 Tennessee (3-1) vs. Arkansas (2-1)

Weather

Today: Cloudy skies with early morning rain and isolated afternoon rain showers, winds will be out of the south at 10 switching around to the north at 10-15 with gusts to 25 knots in the afternoon. High: 54F Low: 39F

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and winds out of the northwest 10-15 knots gusting to 20 knots later in the afternoon. High: 45F Low: 32F

(Weather provided by V CORPS USAF Weather Team)

Information Roundup

VSIII Vehicle Accidents

Four accidents have occurred in the past 36 hours that could have been severe. Fortunately every one walked away with minor injuries. There are a lot of hazards out there, please keep that in mind and take your time. Information provided by V Corps Safety Office.

Suggestions for vehicle safety:

- General concerns for vehicle safety
- Safety briefs
- Proper PMCS on the vehicle
- Adequate rest
- Know the route, location and destination
- Keep headlights on at all times
- Remember posted speed limits are under ideal conditions, out here we rarely have ideal conditions.
- Drivers must be properly trained



Photo Provided by V Corps Safety Office

Updated EMERGENCY Phone List- MP/MTA: DSN 676-106 or 107, Comm. 957-556-106 or 107; MP/DPTA: DSN 474-500, Comm. 943-674-500; HICON: DSN 474-179, Comm. 943-674-179; C-REAR: 476-540, Comm. 943-676-540. Primary POC are MP.

Protecting the Force



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott

Sgt. Ray Vejar (left), Pv2 Joseph Clark and Pfc. Jimmy "lunch-box" Keefer, scout's with the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, pull guard at the gate of base camp Oleszno. The soldiers on guard, often unsung heroes, do not have the glorious or "fun" jobs. Instead, they pull round-the-clock shifts through rain or shine, day and night, protecting the troops and perhaps holding the most essential job of all.